

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 494

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Rich Boyd for his contributions to the Tennessee arts community and recognize his invaluable service on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those individuals who, with tireless dedication and integrity, promote the artistic and cultural development of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Rich Boyd is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for twenty-eight years as executive director of the Tennessee Arts Commission (TAC); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boyd will be taking a much deserved retirement on January 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, first joining TAC in 1984 as the assistant director, his hard work and tireless devotion to the organization led to his promotion to executive director in 1999; and

WHEREAS, his administration has been characterized by his efforts to make the arts more accessible and available to the public, especially students and working artists, and by his insistence on fiscal transparency and accountability of TAC funds; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boyd, with the help of his professional staff, also improved access to grants by establishing a web-based grant application, developing new grant categories, and increasing funding for individual artists; and

WHEREAS, his acumen for organization, programming, and marketing has increased the agency's funding for cultural activities from \$2.8 million to \$7.3 million over the last decade, greatly bolstering arts communities across the state and marking Tennessee as a leader in state arts agencies; and

WHEREAS, Rich Boyd's extraordinary leadership produced a rebirth of Tennesseans for the Arts and the formation of a state legislative arts caucus, deemed a model nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these ambitious projects, TAC expanded its Arts Education Program that focuses on arts integration and, in partnership with Middle Tennessee State University and the Tennessee Department of Education, helped to establish the Creativity in Education Institute in 2011 to further promote arts integration; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Mr. Boyd was responsible for many publications on Tennessee arts and culture, including *Tradition—Tennessee Lives and Legacies*, *A History of Tennessee Arts*, *Creating Traditions*, *Expanding Horizons*, and *Historic Tennessee Stages*; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Boyd's administration, TAC introduced public art to the State with the Tennessee Interstate Welcome Center Program, resulting in the installation of twelve large-scale sculptures throughout the State; the Commission also facilitated showcases of public art at the State Capitol and the Tennessee Residence, and forthcoming displays at Conservation Hall; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his responsibilities at TAC, Rich Boyd has played leadership roles at South Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, and was a member of the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Rutherford County, Mr. Boyd graduated from Belmont University and continued his studies at Middle Tennessee State University; he spent five years teaching in the Rutherford County school system, during which he was named "Teacher of the Year"; he authored *Liberty Hall—Reclaiming a Family Heritage*, documenting his restoration of the North Carolina plantation and gardens; and he is an accomplished producer, director, playwright, and composer; and

WHEREAS, Rich Boyd's exceptional leadership and endless efforts improved public funding, arts education, promotion and preservation of cultural heritage, and the support of individual artists throughout the State; therefore, he will be leaving the Tennessee Arts Commission with an immaculate record of success and the well-earned respect of artists and agencies nationwide; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Rich Boyd our unending gratitude for the astounding

contributions he has made to the arts community of Tennessee and wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.